



World Food Programme

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# WFP Mauritania Country Brief

December 2022



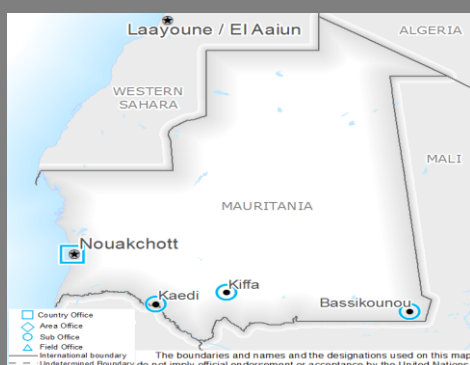
## Operational Context

Mauritania is a lower middle-income country in the Sahel with a population of 4.8 million that lives over a vast but mostly arid 1,030,700 km<sup>2</sup> territory.

Mauritania is exposed to recurrent cycles of drought, resulting in the degradation of natural resources and structurally impacting the population's productive capacity, resilience, and food security. According to the November 2022 *Cadre Harmonisé*, 694,612 individuals and 13 regions will face crisis conditions (phase 3+) during the peak of the upcoming lean season (June-August 2023). This corresponds to 16 percent of the population and reflects a decrease of 4 percent compared to 2022.

Mauritania continues to host the largest number of Malian refugees in West Africa. The Malian refugee situation entered its tenth year and the security conditions in Mali remain volatile resulting in a continuous refugee influx into Mauritania. As of December 2022, close to 89,000 refugees were registered by UNHCR in and around the Mbera camp.

WFP country portfolio aims to meet the basic food and nutrition needs of affected people as well as to provide UNHAS flight services for all humanitarian and development partners. In parallel, WFP strives to ensure the continuation of resilience programmes, while strengthening institutional capacity and minimizing gender inequalities. WFP has been present in Mauritania since 1964.



Population: **4.8 million**

2021 Human Development Index: **158 out of 191**

Income Level: **Lower middle**

Chronic malnutrition: **19.6 percent** of children between 6-59 months

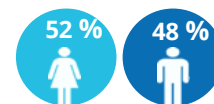
## In Numbers

**756 mt** of food, including specialized nutritious food, distributed

**USD 0.6 million** cash-based transfers made

**USD 32.7 million** for six months (January – June 2023) net funding requirements

**144,828 people assisted** in December 2022



## Operational Updates

- **WFP's refugee response in the Mbera camp:** WFP provided food and cash assistance to 54,000 (55 percent women) vulnerable and newly arrived refugees, covering November and December needs. To treat moderate acute malnutrition, close to 600 children aged 6-59 months (50 percent girls) and around 220 pregnant and lactating women and girls received specialized nutritious foods and fortified oil. Nearly 3,500 children (6-23 months, 50 percent girls) and 1,700 pregnant and lactating women and girls received specialized nutritious foods to prevent malnutrition. WFP resumed the provision of two meals per day, a breakfast porridge of fortified food and a lunch meal, to 5,700 students (50 percent girls) in the eight schools of the camp.
- WFP and the Food Security Commission (CSA) concluded in December distributions for **the lean season response** in the departments of Assaba, Guidimakha, and Hodh El Chargui, reaching 22,300 beneficiaries with a total of USD 250,000. A workshop on lessons learned from the implementation of the 2022 National Response Plan was held on 12 and 13 December under the leadership of the Government and with participation from UN agencies and national and international NGOs. The workshop provided a consolidated assessment of the 2022 lean season response regarding livelihood support and food and nutritional assistance. The structure of next year's National Response Plan was also established, and recommendations for future practice were offered, including continuing to use the Social Registry for targeting and performing complementary targeting in sites where the database does not cover all the targeted beneficiaries.
- Under the **treatment of moderate acute malnutrition (MAM)**, WFP provided specialized nutritious foods to 12,000 children aged 6-59 months and 1,600 pregnant and lactating women and girls in 916 health centers in six regions. As a result of the treatment, 99 percent of children were discharged (is it the recovery rate, if yes, change the word discharged) from the MAM management programme. Out of 3,458 children discharged, 3,420 were cured.
- WFP assisted 400 schools in three regions with **school meals**. The assistance included two warm meals per day for primary schoolchildren.
- For the **Food Assistance for Assets (FFA)** programme, WFP Mauritania was designated by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to implement micro-climate insurance.

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Further information: <https://www.wfp.org/countries/mauritania>

**Main photo credit:** WFP/ Simon, En Haut!

**Caption:** Harvest in Guidimakha following FFA activities

## Country Strategic Plan (2019-2023)

2022 Total Requirements (in USD)	2022 Available Contributions (in USD)	Six-Month Net Funding Requirements (in USD)
80 m	63.3 m	32.7 m

## Strategic Result 1: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 1:** Crisis-affected people, including refugees, are able to meet basic food and nutrition needs during and in the aftermath of crisis.

**Focus area:** Crisis response

## Activities:

- Provide food/cash assistance (conditional and/or unconditional), school meals, and preventive nutrition ration and MAM treatment to refugees
- Provide food assistance and supplementary feeding to pandemic affected populations/households.

## Strategic Result 2: Everyone has access to food

**Strategic Outcome 2:** Food-insecure populations, including school-age children, have access to adequate and nutritious food all year.

**Focus area:** Resilience-building

## Activities:

- Provide seasonal food assistance to food-insecure Mauritanian populations, including malnutrition prevention and treatment
- Provide school meals to vulnerable Mauritanian children

## Strategic Result 3: No one suffers from malnutrition

**Strategic Outcome 3:** Nutritionally vulnerable populations, including children and pregnant and lactating women and girls, have improved nutritional status all year.

**Focus area:** Resilience building

## Activities:

- MAM treatment and cash transfers to pregnant and lactating women and girls attending pre/post-natal care

## Strategic Result 4: Improved food security and nutrition of smallholders

**Strategic Outcome 4:** Food-insecure populations and communities exposed to climate shocks have more resilient livelihoods and sustainable food systems all year.

**Focus area:** Resilience-building

## Activities:

- Provide livelihood support to food-insecure and at-risk Mauritanian households, including the development or rehabilitation of natural and productive assets

## Strategic Result 5: Country strategic capacities

**Strategic Outcome 5:** National institutions have strengthened capacities to manage food security, nutrition, and social protection policies and programmes, including an adaptive (shock responsive) social protection system, by 2030.

**Focus area:** Resilience-building

## Activities:

- Provide training and technical support to governmental institutions

## Strategic Result 6: Global partnership support

**Strategic Outcome 6:** Humanitarian and development partners have access to common services that permit them to reach and operate in targeted areas all year.

**Focus area:** Resilience-building

## Activities:

- Provide flight services to humanitarian partners for humanitarian interventions
- Provide on-demand logistics services to Government, United Nations and Non-Governmental partners to facilitate effective field operations (CPA Service Provision and platform activities)

Future beneficiaries will be offered climate risk insurance to help them cope with the adverse effects of climate change. This initiative will provide support in emergencies with climate-related damages and strengthen economic resilience. The first meeting with the team from African Integrated Climate Risk Management Program (AICRM) was on the topic of the implementation manual.

- As part of the **cash component of FFA activities**, WFP distributed cash to vulnerable populations who performed community work in November and December 2022, reaching 21,000 beneficiaries (10,920 women and 10,080 men) with USD 250,000 in the regions of Assaba, Guidimakha, and Hodh El Chargui.
- A joint **WFP and ANGMV (National Agency of the Great Green Wall)** mission was carried out in the departments of Timbedra and Djiguéni (Hodh El Chargui). The mission aimed to determine the priority activities for 2023: (i) to identify new project sites in the areas and (ii) to establish a status report on the implementation of the activities of the Spain Debt Swap project by the partner and the technical services. The innovative debt-swap initiative between Mauritania and Spain has capitalized on a funding deficit, which is being used by WFP to support the Government of Mauritania to strengthen the resilience of food-insecure populations and communities in the southern and eastern parts of the country.
- The United Nations Humanitarian Air Service (**UNHAS**) transported 175 passengers and over 664 kg of light cargo connecting Nouakchott to Kiffa, Nema, and Bassikounou, through 36 in-country rotations. UNHAS chartered a special flight for United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), **transporting medicines from Monrovia, Liberia, to Nouakchott.**

## Monitoring and Evaluation

- The fourth [market outlook bulletin](#) covering the period from October to December 2022 revealed that in December 2022, small ruminant prices were above November 2022 prices (+8 percent for sheep) and still high compared to December 2021 (+16 percent for sheep) and the five-year average (+49 percent for sheep). As for imported products, the price remained stable compared to November 2022, except for sugar which has fallen by three percent. Compared to December 2021, the prices increased for oil by five percent, sugar by six percent, wheat by 14 percent, and milk powder by 22 percent. Compared to the five-year average, the prices are up sharply for imported rice +5 percent, oil +62 percent, sugar +30 percent, wheat +40 percent and milk powder +32 percent.

## Challenges

- WFP's current priority is to advocate for additional resources to **assist Malian refugees**. WFP is exploring options to revise its refugee response strategy and seek additional resources for sustainable solutions and income-generating activities.
- Following the results of the [November 2022 Cadre Harmonisé](#), WFP has plans to address short-term needs of food insecurity during the upcoming lean season (June to September 2023) while also addressing the long-term drivers of food insecurity through its resilience package, which requires an additional USD 3.8 million in 2023.

## Donors

Donors to WFP Mauritania CSP 2019 – 2023 include Andorra, Canada, European Commission, France, Germany, Japan, Mauritania, Monaco, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Sweden, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Private donors, Gimbel Foundation, ARC Replica, UN Adaptation Funds, UN CERF, UN PBF, UN SDG, UNICEF, and UNHCR, provided Additional support.